

JANUARY ★ 1970 ★ 35¢

# Bucks County **PANORAMA**

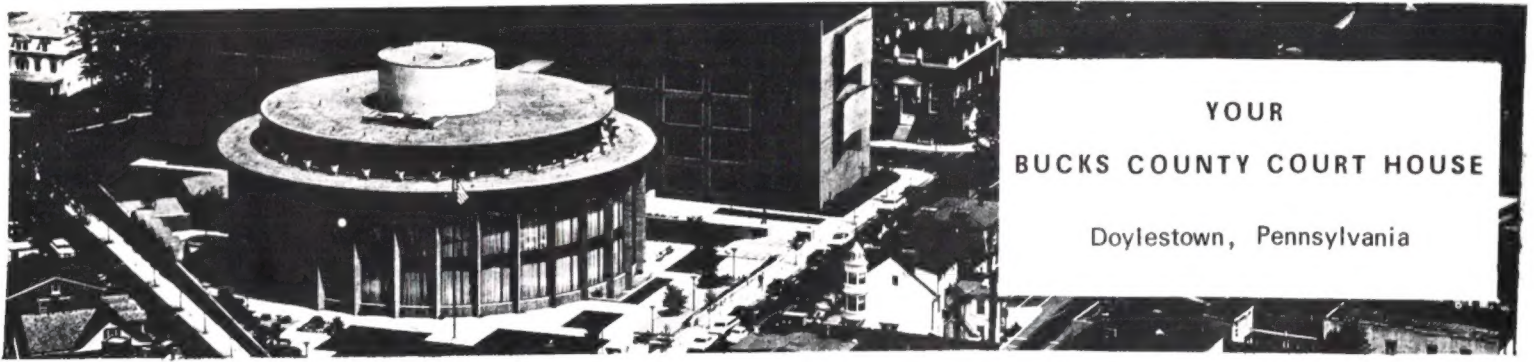
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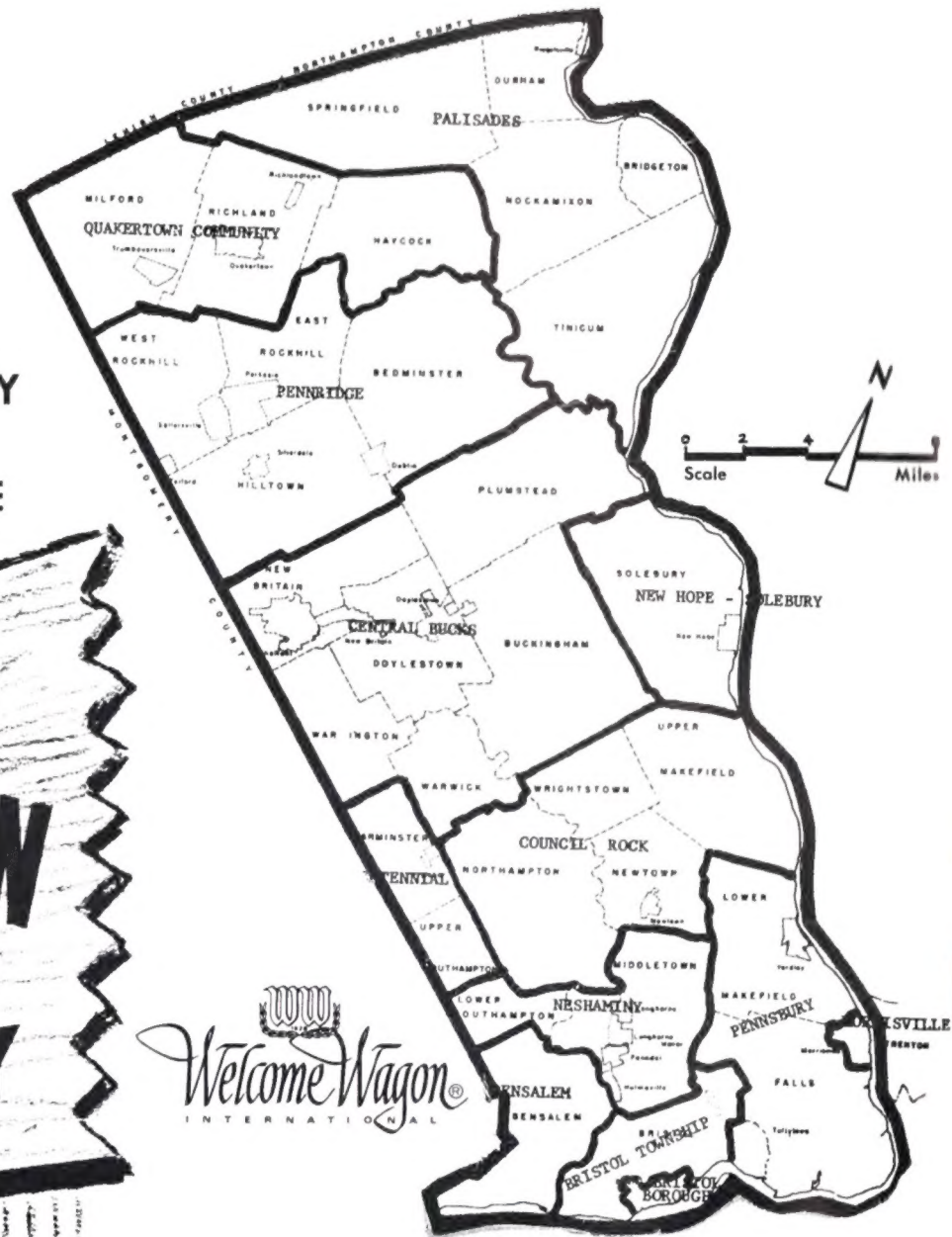




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# Bucks County **PANORAMA**

— The Magazine of Bucks County —

ESTABLISHED 1959

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COVER PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER BROOKS

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

Courtesy of the Bucks County Historical-Tourist Commission.

January, 1970

- 1 - 31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Narration and Famous Painting "Washington Crossing the Delaware", Daily 9 to 5 p.m. Memorial Building, at ½ hr. intervals.
- 1 - 31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Thompson Neely House furnished with pre-Revolutionary pieces, Rte 32, Washington Crossing State Park. Open weekdays 10 to 5 p.m., Sundays and Holidays 1 to 5 p.m.
- 1 - 31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Old Ferry Inn, Rte. 532 at the bridge. Restored Revolutionary Furniture, gift and snack shop where Washington Punch is sold. Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday and Holidays 1 to 5 p.m.
- 1 - 31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Taylor House, built in 1812 by Mahlon K. Taylor, now serves as headquarters for the Washington Crossing Park Commission. Open to public weekdays 8:30 to 5 p.m., Sat. 8:30 to 11 a.m.
- 1 - 31 MORRISVILLE — Pennsbury Manor, the re-created Country Estate of William Penn. Original Manor House was built in 1683. Open daily 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sun. 1 to 4:30 p.m. Admission 50 cents.
- 1 - 31 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Ice Skating, "The Lagoon," near the western entrance to the park, weather permitting. Free.
- 1 - 31 FAIRLESS HILLS — Ice Skating, "Lake Caroline," Oxford Valley Road and Hood Blvd., Weather permitting. Free. Lights for night skating.
- 1 - 31 BRISTOL — Ice Skating, "Silver Lake," Route 13 and Bath Road, weather permitting. Free. County Park. Lights for night skating Sun. thru Thurs. until 9:30 p.m., Fri. and Sat. until 10:30 p.m.
- 1 - 31 PINEVILLE — Wilmar Lapidary Art Museum. The country's largest private collection of hand-carved semi-precious stones. Open to the public Tues. thru Sat. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sun. 1 to 5 p.m. Admission 50 cents.

(continued on page 25)





## REMEMBER THOSE TROLLEYS?

*by Sheila L. M. Broderick*

I drove the car right down through Feasterville and turned right on to Street Road, congratulating myself at having made the whole sweep with all traffic lights in my favor.

The radio was playing a lot of oldies and I hummed along, enjoying playing hooky from the every day things. It was a heavenly day. I had just dropped everything and taken off, and here I was sightseeing through lovely Bucks County once again.

Blissfully lost in thought as I watched the countryside sweep by, I became aware I was singing the words to the Trolley Song; remember that one? "...and the moment I saw him, I fell."

I wondered how many of those starry-eyed young ladies of the late 1800's and early 1900's had fallen madly in love with that handsome conductor, as he swung himself out there by the hand rail and called out the stops.

And those stops! What memories of day long rides and picnics they recall. . . "Bristol, Newtown, Penns Park, Forest Grove, Furlong!" Or, it might have been, "Lambertville, New Hope, Yardley, Brownsburg!" Yet again it might have been, "Doylestown, Plumsteadville, Pipersville, Tohickon Park, Revere, Ferndale, Kintnersville, Durham, Riegelsville Blackhorse" and last stop. . . "Easton!"

One of the many delightful trips, and one taken by thousands of happy people left Philadelphia and came

all the way up to Willow Grove. Here, in the heart of what was then one of the loveliest parks in the whole United States, folks could change over and get another trolley to almost any corner of Bucks County.

A publicity release put out by the Philadelphia and Easton Electric Railway Company in the fall of 1904 stated. . . "Bring your whole family out for a day in the country — where meadow daisies bloom. Where rippling rivers flow. Come and witness the arrival of spring, in summer see a fairyland — a rural paradise. In autumn a vision of a wonderland of color, as brilliant foliage surrounds you on all sides. Philadelphia to Easton is a 57 mile ride taking about 3 and ½ hours, and it is the most direct — shortest route between two cities running from Lehigh Valley and the Delaware Water Gap. Fares from Philadelphia to Easton are 75 cents. From Doylestown to Easton 45 cents."

The actual laying of the tracks was a much rougher story than the rides. On many occasions men working to clear the countryside for the coaches were swung out over cliff faces on ropes, so that they might be able to chop away at the rocks. Many long steel bridges were thrown across high ravines; some of these bridges were over two hundred feet in length. Expenses were great because of the materials put into the roads and the huge labor gangs used. But so well



was the whole job done, that all of the bridges are still in use today. The road beds, too, with the usual yearly maintenance have remained for the better part in good working condition, although some have become little-used country lanes. Apart from the ordinary hitches of broken arms, mashed fingers and bruised toes, frayed tempers and a lack of trucks to do all the hauling, that the road building companies ran into, there were a few problems on the other side of the fence, too!

Farmers were not overly happy at having their milk cows disturbed by the noise of the track workers. Home owners didn't want their lovely streets torn up just for the convenience of these new fangled contraptions!

Nor did these hassles let up after the arrival of the trolleys, in fact, one might say things got even hotter.

A trolley would start off on its appointed run only to find the road ahead blocked by felled trees or huge piles of hay. Pitched battles took place over the right-of-way of the cars against the cows. Then, too, duck hunters got mighty upset, stating that the noise would chase all wild life from the areas. Nature lovers and artists went right along with the hunters, claiming that there would be no countryside left untouched.

Picnickers from the trolleys eating in some lovely meadow, often found that they were trespassing on an irate farmer's lower forty without permission. Then adding to the whole heated situation, trolleys would break down now and then, to sit for several hours before help could arrive.

Still, in spite of all the ups and downs, most of the people were delighted with the many different trolley runs available to them.

One of the first companies to run trolleys in Bucks County was the Newtown Electric Street Railway (a brain child of the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Traction Company) organized in 1897.

The company had been formed and all plans drawn up for a line to run from Newtown through Langhorne, Hulmeville to Bristol, when a slight difficulty arose. In drawing up the plans it found that the proposed run would have to pass under the bridge of the Pennsylvania Railroad's "Trenton Cut-Off Line."

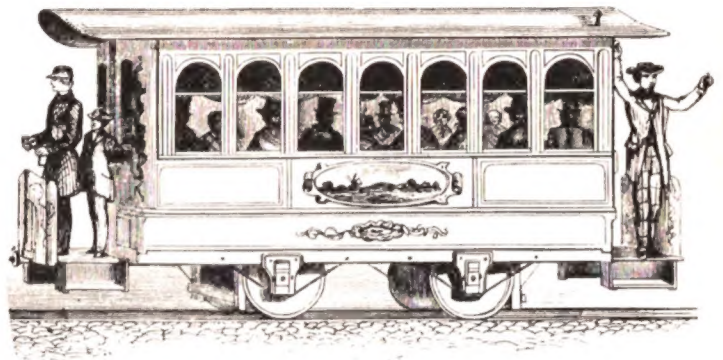
Permission to use the right-of-way under the bridge was denied the Newtown company, which meant that the passengers from Newtown to Langhorne had to get off the trolley at one side of the bridge, walk under it, and then board another trolley on the other side to continue their trip. Not really such a terrible hardship unless it was pouring rain, snowing up a blizzard, or the second trolley was half an hour late in

making the connection!

The staunch trolley men decided this was a ridiculous situation, and began putting their heads together. One dark, cloudy night they gathered and began to lay their track. Starting on both sides of the bridge they met under the middle in the early hours of the morning. Joining the last piece of iron, they held a hushed celebration over cups of welcomed, steaming hot coffee.

Word spread quickly about the dastardly deed, and a few days later after several successful trips back and forth under the bridge. . .all heck broke loose!

The Pennsylvania Company sent a gang of hired thugs out with two of the railroad's representatives (to make it all seem legal) with orders to take a derrick in and rip up all of the new track. They did their job as ordered, did it so well that they damaged the



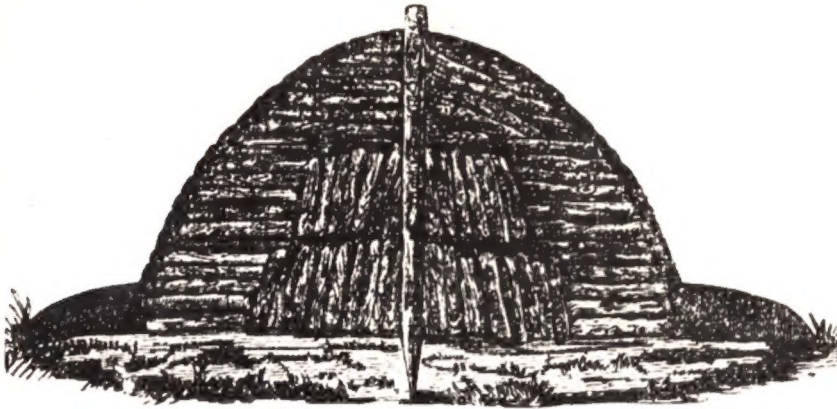
bridge in a few places. Needless to say, this was just about the last straw as far as the gentlemen of Newtown were concerned. Up rose the leading citizenry, and ordering the Newtown Fire Company to the scene; they rode in with it, bells clanging like crazy and a full head of steam billowing out threatening clouds of black smoke.

The fire engine's mad dash up the highway was followed by the rest of the citizens in various modes of transportation, including a group of hookey-playing students from the Bicycle Club at the George School.

As this oddly assorted parade was nearing the wrecking team, a small mail car came dashing along the track from Langhorne on its appointed run, and was promptly derailed. Seeing red now, the firemen turned their hoses on full blast and let the thugs have it right in their faces. Thoroughly heated themselves, the victims scrambled down the banks and chopped the hoses up into little pieces with their axes, picks

(continued on page 30)





*Cordwood stacked before coaling process.*

# CIGARETTES, WHISKEY AND PIG IRON

by H. Winthrop Blackburn

If the average person were taking a word association test and "charcoal" was mentioned, the immediate response would probably be "barbecue" or "cook-out." If the subject were possessed of better than average imagination, the response might be "Herbert Tareyton Cigarettes." If the subject were also a connoisseur, the response would undoubtedly be "Jack Daniels Tennessee Sour Mash Whiskey." These associations all connote pleasure, and represent a certain degree of economic significance. The *Statistical Abstract of the United States*, which discusses the annual production figures for such important commodities as mohair, tung nuts, flaxseed, emery, pumice, emulsified asphalt, dead-burned dolomite, refined argon, and tie plates, makes no mention of charcoal, however.

Charcoal has not always occupied such a low position on the yardstick of importance. When a cold blast furnace for the production of pig iron was opened in Durham Township in 1727, charcoal was one of the materials essential to its operation. Throughout Pennsylvania, which was the center of the iron industry in colonial America, other cold blast furnaces had a ravenous appetite that could be satisfied only by large and frequent doses of charcoal. Why charcoal? Well, until 1830, charcoal was the only fuel that provided enough heat to separate iron from the oxides in which nature binds it. The furnace at Durham, and the other cold blast furnaces, each

consumed about 800 bushels of charcoal a day. The 800 bushels of charcoal used 50 cords of wood, the equivalent of one forest acre of trees 20 to 25 years old. An iron furnace therefore needed thousands of acres of trees to feed this appetite. This is the only reason why colonial iron furnaces were found in the wilderness, such as Durham Township, and not near the settled areas.

For all the charcoal that was required, Durham was not a big producer of iron. Throughout the 62 years of its operation, the annual production averaged less than 350 tons per year. As a matter of fact, a modern blast furnace at the Fairless Works produces more iron in one month than did Durham in 62 years.

Durham, like the other furnaces, was a self-contained operation. The iron ore and the dolomite, used for flux, were obtained from the ground on the furnace property. The ore was originally obtained from outcroppings, and later from tunnels dug into the hillsides. The charcoal, of course, came from the virgin forests that then covered much of that portion of Bucks County. Hickory trees were the principal target of the woodsmen with black oak and chestnut as satisfactory substitutes. To complete the picture of self-containment, the workers all lived on the property and bought their necessities at a store owned by the company.

The process of converting wood into charcoal was called, logically enough, coaling. The wizard who



supervised the ticklish process was called a collier. Coaling took place during the whole season that the furnace was in operation, generally from May through October. Woodcutting, however, was a year round operation and in the off season, the collier and his assistants took to the woods and were thus able to enjoy a year round income. Charcoal, being brittle, is not transportable and the wood, cut into uniform four foot lengths, was hauled from the woods to a site near the furnace.

While the distillers of Jack Daniels Tennessee Sour Mash Whiskey are justly proud of their charcoal, the way that it is manufactured is probably not nearly as interesting as that used by the collier at Durham Furnace. The area where the charcoal was made was called a pit even though it was not a pit, but a flat, smooth area of the ground. The collier and his helpers took the logs and placed them on the ground, on end, until they covered an area 30 or 40 feet in diameter. Logs from four to seven inches in diameter were the principal stock with the spaces in between filled with smaller pieces, the object being to minimize the number of air spaces. A second layer of logs, sloping inward, was then stacked on top of the first. A third and fourth layer followed and the result was a domed structure about 15 feet high. A small hole was left in the middle of the stack for kindling.

The secret of making charcoal is to burn the wood in the absence of air. Otherwise, instead of charcoal, the ironmaster would have ashes to feed his furnace. To exclude the air that is necessary for humans but fatal to charcoal, the pile of wood was covered with leaves and charcoal dust, or dirt, to a depth of about one foot. The leaves and dust were packed tightly into the crevices and cracks, filling as many of the air spaces as possible. The hole in the center was kept open until the last minute when, after the collier had kindled the wood, it too was sealed.

The process of converting a pile of wood into charcoal took about two weeks. It was during this period that the collier was converted from workman to an artist. The collier listened and watched, listened for the crackle of flame and watched for wisps of smoke. The crackle of flame called for rapid action in forcing charcoal dust into the air space that was supporting the flame while more dust and leaves were piled on the smoking areas. During the coaling operation the collier lived in a hut next to the pit. Before he retired for the night, the black mound received the most thorough inspection of the day. The collier felt out the pile for soft spots and reinforced them with leaves and dust before they could start smoking or burst into flames. The collier's

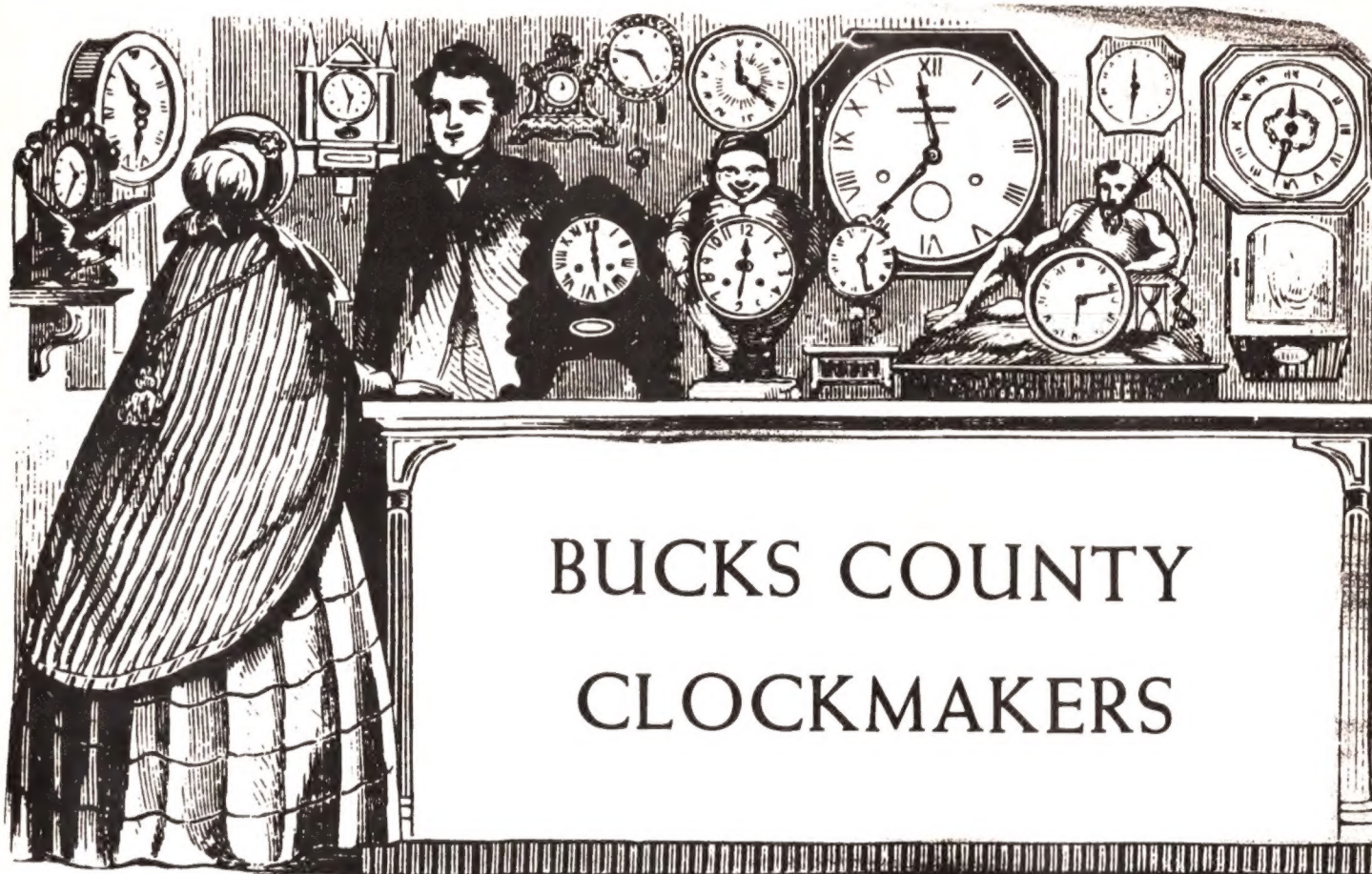
talent in detecting the soft spots, generally by walking over the mound, and his skill in quickly extinguishing the flames, were his stock in trade and the key to the success of the venture. When the conversion process was finished and the mound had cooled off, the covering was removed and the charcoal was carried to the nearby coal house, immediately adjacent to the furnace where it was protected from the elements until used. This method of making charcoal, so vital to the operation of Durham and the rest of the early American iron industry, has passed from the scene except for an exhibit at the Hopewell Village National Historical Site in Berks County. Hopewell, like Durham, was a colonial furnace and has been completely restored by the National Park Service.

Whatever happened to the charcoal industry? From 1727 to 1789 the furnace at Durham turned out pig iron and cast pots, pans, stoves, and firebacks for the colonies, and three forges converted pig iron into wrought iron used by blacksmiths to make tools and implements. Durham's final blast was a result of management problems, but other charcoal furnaces continued operation into the 1830s and beyond. Charcoal iron was good iron, but the development of the anthracite furnace freed the iron industry from the wilderness. Coal was transportable, it was not brittle and could be used in larger, more efficient furnaces, and did not require a lot of labor to change nature's product into a usable material. The charcoal iron industry has, so to speak, left its mark on America. In addition to ruins scattered over the former iron belt, it is reported that black charcoal dust, marking the site of the pits, was visible at Durham for more than 100 years after the last blast.

Durham did not die in 1789. An anthracite furnace was built on the site in 1848 and smoke from Durham again colored the skies of upper Bucks County. The charcoal industry in Bucks County did not die in 1789, either. Charcoal remained an important fuel for blacksmiths and other metal workers and as late as 1890, Charles Lloyd of Holicong and Andrew Anthony operated a pit on Anthony's property near Buckingham. Theirs was a small pit, only about 15 feet in diameter, and used the more available pine instead of the higher quality hardwoods.

Next summer, when you are broiling your steaks, smoking a Herbert Tareyton, and enjoying a sip of Jack Daniels Tennessee Sour Mash Whiskey, consider for a moment the glorious past of the humble charcoal that is making such a great contribution to your present feeling of contentment.





## BUCKS COUNTY CLOCKMAKERS

*by Sheila W. Martin*

The fame of the 18th and 19th century Philadelphia clockmakers is widespread. Bucks County also produced a large number of skilled craftsmen during this time whose clocks compared very favorably with those made by their "city cousins." It has been estimated that some 3500 clocks were made in Bucks County in that period.

Since the Bucks County clocks were in competition with the fine clocks of Philadelphia, they were more elegant than would be usual for a rural area. Native woods such as walnut, cherry, and maple were used most often. The manufacture of clocks began around 1720 in Philadelphia and the emigration of skilled German and English clockmakers thirty years later gave great impetus to the craft both in the city and in Bucks County.

The tall-case or grandfather clock was one of the earliest types of clock made in Pennsylvania while the grandmother clock didn't appear til after 1785. (The

original name for the grandmother clock was the dwarf clock due to its relative size to the grandfather clock.)

The date of early American clocks can often be determined by the style of the hands. Certain characteristics of old clocks also serve to indicate the date when they were made. An interesting feature of the tall-case clock was the bull's eye door, a circular opening which let the owner watch the pendulum swing back and forth.

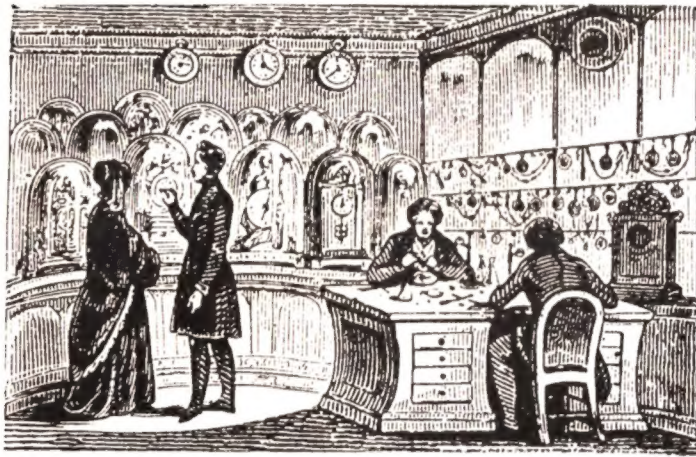
The price of the old Bucks County clocks now is, of course, many times the original cost. However, the purchaser in the early days regarded a clock as an important item in his budget and usually paid 60 to 100 dollars for the clock. Of course, clocks were usually a once in a lifetime purchase and were treasured and handed down through the family.

The Bucks County clockmakers were scattered all over the county although most were centered around



the larger towns.

Doylestown was home to clockmaker Louis Spellier, a German-born scientist who came to Doylestown in 1869 and opened a watch and clock



store in a building near the corner of Main and State Streets. He invented a new system of electric clocks which he patented in 1885.

Samuel Solliday of the famous clockmaker family made 5 clocks in Doylestown around 1833. He then moved to New Hope where he was a repairer of clocks as well as a lumber and coal dealer.

Also in New Hope was Hugh Ely who made clocks between 1799 and 1803. One of the five clocks made by Ely was for the County Almshouse. Another made for his brother played such tunes as "Yankee Doodle," "Nancy Dawson," and "Beggar Girl." Musical clocks which played tunes such as these on bells or chimes were very popular. In 1770 a musical clock was advertised which played a different tune each day and a psalm tune on Sunday.

Around Hilltown was Benjamin Morris who made 300 clocks between 1760 and 1780. His son Enos joined him in clockmaking until 1780 when he became a lawyer full-time. William Maus made several clocks around 1810. Richard Owen is listed as a clockmaker in Hilltown.

Near Perkasia was Abraham Yeakel who came to Doylestown with Louis Spellier and moved to

Perkasie in the 1870's.

Newtown can boast of William Wilson who made clocks around 1826; David Shoemaker who worked around 1817; Job Hollingshead who lived in the Torbert House at 107 South State Street and was advertised as a clockmaker in 1821; and Solomon Parke who served as a private in the Revolutionary War and made clocks in the late 1700's.

The Revolutionary War gave rise to the type of clock popularly named the Tory clock. Since the early clocks had lead weights and lead can be used to make bullets, patriots contributed the lead weights of their clocks and substituted iron weights. Hence a clock made before 1776 which had its lead weights intact was supposedly owned by a Tory.

In Plumstead on Durham Road about one mile above Gardenville Henry Wismer made clocks in the early 1800's. It is said that Wismer made more clocks than any other Bucks County clockmaker. Most of his clocks have his name on them and the letters BC for Bucks County.

Buckingham is known for the famous Ellicotts, Joseph and his son Andrew. Members of a distinguished Bucks County family they number clockmaking as just one of their numerous talents. Joseph Ellicott was born in 1732 and did most of his clockmaking between 1760 and 1780. He made over 300 clocks, most tall-cased, some with chimes of 14 bells able to play as many as 24 different tunes. His masterpiece was a clock with four faces completed in 1769. His clocks bear his name and his location, Buckingham. He was Sheriff of Bucks County and also served in the Pennsylvania Assembly.

His son Andrew Ellicott worked with him on the clocks but his other interests led him from clockmaking to the post of Surveyor-General of the United States in 1792 and later that of professor at West Point from 1812 to 1820.

The whole family of Sollidays made clocks — John in Richland, Frederick, Benjamin and Peter in Bedminster. They were descendents of French Hugonots.

Septimus Evans made clocks in Warwick around 1810. Henry Gotshalk combined tavern-keeping and clock-making in Plumstead and New Britain in the middle 1700's.

It is easy to see that Bucks County could certainly be proud of its early clockmakers many of whose clocks are still operating today in museums and private homes. They reflect the craftsmanship of the men who were the forerunners of the artisans of today in Bucks County.





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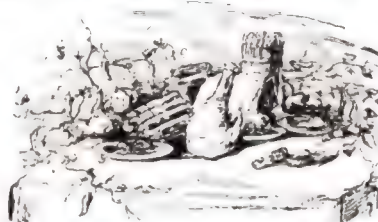
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Between Friends



by Sheila Martin

January is named for the Roman god, Janus. Janus is the god of gates and doors and is represented with two faces, one looking back toward the old year and one ahead to the new. So it is, that with January of 1970 here, we look to the past for reassurance as we face the future with hope.

\* \* \*

Something in the future that reflects the past is the

present construction of a replica of William Tennent's famous "log college" of Warminster. The replica is being built on a tract of land near the intersection of Street and Norristown Roads and should be completed in June.

\* \* \*

Congratulations go to Mr. and Mrs. Asa Hockman of Chalfont who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last November.

\* \* \*

A wonderful production of Snow White is going to be presented by the Bucks County Ballet Company at a number of local high schools. Check our Calendar of Events for dates and locations and enjoy watching your kids enjoying themselves.

\* \* \*

Award winners of the Third Annual National Albert W. Hawkes Patriotic Essay Contest were honored at a luncheon on Dec. 6 at the Washington Crossing Inn. The topic "What Was the Spirit of 1776 and Will It Still Have Value in 1976?" attracted hundreds of entries from schools in thirty states. Gregg J. Semanick of Bethlehem, Pa. was the winner of the first prize of \$200 and he and the other two



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award winners received all-expense week-end trips for two to historic Washington Crossing.

\* \* \*

Dr. Norman Plummer of Wycombe is the newly elected president of the Village Library of Wrightstown Township. He announced that the recently completed fund drive for the Library reached \$4,000.

\* \* \*

Mr. and Mrs. George Wiley, popular residents of Cherry Lane in Doylestown, celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on November 4. They were given a surprise tea and reception by their many friends and relatives.

\* \* \*

When you are in New Hope, do stop in at the World Wide Cheese Shoppe in the Four Seasons Mall. They are open Tuesday through Friday, 10 - 5, Saturday, 10 - 6 and Sunday, 1 - 6. Anyone who loves cheese will be delighted with the wonderful assortment of cheeses that Ruth and Roger Farthing have to offer.

\* \* \*

"The Physiological Aspects of Emphysema" was the subject of a talk at the regular monthly meeting of the Bucks County Emphysema Club held Tuesday evening, December 16.

A special invitation to join the club is extended to all persons who have emphysema, asthma, chronic bronchitis or other chronic obstructive lung disease. Members of their families and friends are also welcome.

The Christmas Seal Society is sponsoring this group in the interest of better understanding about emphysema and other lung disorders, and there is no charge to those attending.

Additional information about the Club may be obtained by contacting Joseph Pistorius, executive director of the Bucks County Tuberculosis and Health Society, 30 South Main Street, Doylestown, Tel. 348 - 4275.

\* \* \*

(continued on page 16)

## contemporary photography

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# SHOOTING IN THE NEW YEAR

The fine old German custom of "Shooting-in the New Year" is no longer one of Bucks County's lively events.

The late Walter Emerson Baum of Sellersville immortalized a New Year's Eve group in one of his paintings, showing a cluster of merry-makers with band instruments and guns, for the custom was a cross between a serenade and shooting up the neighborhood. As men gathered, shots would be fired in salvos and wherever a householder generously offered refreshments and cider, he would receive two salvos.

The leader of the group would recite beautiful verses of hymns, scriptures or his own sentiments, wishing the householder all manner of good for the coming year. Some exuberant men aimed to make the celebration as noisy as possible. Such ones would often meet in a blacksmith's shop, load the anvil with powder and fire off the charge that reverberated among the hills. Undoubtedly the New Year's shooters of yesteryear were of two classes, one well-disposed and courteous, the other rude and riotous. Probably the influence of the latter made the happy custom die out.

With the New Year come the embellished calendars and almanacs. The former have developed since the Civil War but the almanacs go back several centuries.

One of the most famous was Benjamin Franklin's Poor Richard's Almanac with its sage advice and old saws such as "There are three faithful friends — an old wife, an old dog, and ready money."

The New Year has not always been celebrated on January 1st. Man has tampered with the passage of the sun, moon and stars for upwards of 6,000 years, trying to fit the natural calendar to a pattern suitable to him.

The Indians favored March as the first month, or moon, as they designated the divisions of time. They called March the "Awakening Moon." Other months were equally descriptive as "The Leaf-falling Moon" for October. December was "The Long Night Moon" and January, "The Snow Moon," while February was "The Hunger Moon." By February their supplies were probably exhausted and the hunting poor.

Long ago there was a day marked as so evil that it is no longer on the calendars. It was believed that anything which was cut on that day would never grow again. It was also used as an indirect way to commit murder. It was thought that if one took a sharp knife and thrust it into a tree to which had been given the name of an enemy and said; "I thrust this knife into the heart of (enemy's name)," the man would die. Calendar makers changed the name of the day and so it became a lost day.





*Buckmanville Store and Post Office*

## BUCKS COUNTY PHOTOS



*High School, Feasterville*



*Buckingham Store and Post Office*



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(FRIENDS cont. from page 13)

The Pennsylvania 1970 Teacher of the Year is from a Bucks County school and the county is proud of him. The teacher is Curtis Keller who is a special education instructor of sixth grade mentally retarded children at the Everett A. McDonald Comprehensive Elementary School in the Centennial School District.

\* \* \*

One of the nicest things I did last month was to visit Newtown on Open House Day. This was my first Open House there but it won't be my last. It was a lovely day with the crisp weather making the fires in the old fireplaces all the more cheerful and the enthusiastic visitors bringing forth the utmost in courteous response from all the gracious hosts and hostesses. Newtown is a very charming place with a delightful sense of pride in its colonial heritage. Of course, I felt the same way about New Hope Day and Old Fallsington Day; guess I just love the historic towns of Bucks County.

\* \* \*



*Joseph J. Conroy, center, receives a plaque commemorating his 50th anniversary as a Ford dealer.*

Roger Clough, whose painting of an antique toy appeared on *Panorama's* October cover, had pictures of his paintings of these charming old toys reproduced in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* in December.

\* \* \*



**FEEDBACK****LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Sir:

Please enter my subscription to your fine magazine *Bucks County Panorama* as of now. I am a teacher and find it of great value in bringing out Bucks Co. history and culture.

Nancy W. Edden  
Holland, Pa.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Sirs:

In looking over some old magazines, I found yours of March '69 with the picture of my grandparents' home on the cover. . . I lived along the lake in Yardley and spent much time in my grandparents' home, as my mother died when I was quite small. . . This house had been in our family from the time it was built in 1728 until a few years ago.

Sincerely yours,  
Elizabeth Cadwallader Wood  
Langhorne, Pa.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear Mrs. Martin:

I have received your fine magazine. . .

Your account of "Old Bensalem" (*Panorama*, Oct. '69) was very well done, and many of the congregation have enjoyed your work.

Charles J. White  
Cornwell Heights, Pa.

\* \* \* \* \*

Gentlemen:

Your August issue is the first that I have seen and for me, the most enjoyable reading material for some time. Of course, I am extremely interested in your type of articles since my family came from Bucks County. In fact, my grandfather knew General W. W. H. Davis, mentioned in your article, "The Clymer Homestead of Chalfont."

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Marion C. Mizenko  
Levittown, Pa.

\* \* \* \* \*

# JANUARY CLEARANCE SALE!

15 to 20% savings

Now is the time to really save big money on all your furniture needs during Bucks County's REALLY BIG Furniture Sale. Save on famous brands of quality furniture. [Also big savings on GE Appliances, too!] Don't delay, come in and SAVE — TODAY!

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*John H. Wirebach is surrounded by history in his Old Country Store and Post Office.*

*Story and Photos by*

## LEVITTOWN'S OLD



*Another corner of this room of history reflects products and instruments which were common to your great, great grandparents.*

Levittown is still a relatively young community and most people would not expect it to hold very much history within its geographic boundaries. However, in the home of John H. Wirebach, who has lived in Levittown for almost sixteen years, there is a great deal of history. Here one finds the Old Country Store and Post Office where you can't buy anything and cannot mail letters.

It all began about three years ago when John Wirebach started collecting antiques. He believes that it is important to preserve the past by carefully storing it in museums and special collections. This is why he decided to start a museum right in his own home.

"I've been interested in old things for a long time. I used to go to junkyards and bring back items that I could resurrect or do something with and I've always been interested in things of the past," says John Wirebach. "I think it's wonderful to keep history alive," he says, adding, "to show how people once lived."



*Many interesting bottles and old time medicines line the shelves of the Old Country Store and Post Office.*



*Christopher Brooks*

## COUNTRY STORE

*John Wirebach studies scenes of the past with this stereoptican viewer.*

John Wirebach does a good deal of driving across Bucks County. He stops off at farms and other places to see what kinds of treasures people are willing to part with. In this way he often acquires fine additions for his collection.

"I stopped off at the Zion Hill Post Office and asked about material," Wirebach says. "The fellow there just happened to be renovating and said he had some junk in the cellar. He had plenty that I could use." That day John Wirebach left with some old post office sections including the letter holder boxes. He also has the combination locks for these. He even got an old wooden snow shovel (Phillips No. 22) which, needless to say, is not an easy item to locate.

Most of John Wirebach's antique trips have taken him to various parts of Pennsylvania, but he is quick to point out the fact that other states have yielded worthwhile items, too. He's been to Florida, North and South Carolina and New Jersey for the historic finds and he keeps going back for more every chance

*(continued on page 31)*







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## Rambling with Russ

by

A. Russell Thomas

*HAPPY NEW YEAR to all PANORAMA readers and our future subscribers who are signing up for the 1970 issues. With the MOON conquered, may the NEW YEAR bring us to happiness and the end of a useless war.*

\* \* \*

### LOOKING BACK 47 YEARS

(1923)

**ROYAL RECEPTION** — A brand New Year of 1923 was given a royal reception throughout Bucks County. At the stroke of TWELVE the Brown Stone Court House Tower Clock, accompanied by bells and whistles, was sounded and the New Year's celebration was on. It was a law abiding event. Doylestown was as DRY as the sand on Mogul's Egyptian Plantation, while the Philadelphia newspapers carried stories of hundreds of drunks arrested throughout the United States. One of the highlights of this New Year's celebration was the opening of several new road houses along the Willow Grove-Easton highway.

\* \* \*

**DAN CUPID** in a slump — Only 472 marriage licenses were issued in 1922, fewer than any other year since 1913, with the exception of 1918 when World War I put on the brakes. Thirty-two divorces were granted in 1922.

\* \* \*

**MERCHANT PRINCE** — Bucks County's largest retail merchant again led the county in business transacted. He had a unique way of securing assistance in taking the yearly stock account of his store. BOB CLYMER, the jovial merchant, believed



that all men are created equal and like to eat. He figured that nothing would be better than to invite a lot of his friends to his place of business the Sunday before the New Year, to assist him in taking stock account. As a reward for the labor — no money was paid for it would be impossible to estimate what that labor was worth — BOB invited his guests to his home and treated them to a New Year's dinner of turkey and ALL the fixings, from soup to nuts and beverages! This year, 17 friends were on hand for the occasion including this RAMBLER, a dentist, a newspaper editor, several farmers, a traveling salesman, a banker, friends from Albany, N. Y. and several others.

\* \* \*

**LOST THEIR PANTS** — The M. Daroff & Son clothing factory in Dublin was robbed of 1,500 pairs of trousers, but after a few weeks of intensive investigation, 1,197 pairs were recovered. Quiet detective work on the part of District Attorney Hiram H. Keller and the Philadelphia police, plus State Police assistance, and the stolen pants were traced to the factory of F. Segal Brothers, Broad and Spring Garden Sts., Philadelphia. When the pants were finally located in the Philly factory, the head of the well known Daroff company, fainted on the scene. The pants were recovered just before they were destined to be shipped by the accused to a dealer in San Francisco.

\* \* \*

**STRICTLY LOCAL** — Robert G. Hendricks, Doylestown lawyer and justice of the peace, purchased a lot on Oakland Tract and planned to build a house there . . . Lloyd Dimmig who has been with the Maytag Electric Washing Machine Company for the last year in Western Pennsylvania and Virginia as a salesman left with Walter Haney to attend a convention in Newton, Iowa.

\* \* \*

**REWARD OFFERED** . . . Oscar O. Bean, politician and the late Senator Joseph R. Grundy's "right bower" for many years in Bucks County, offered \$25.00 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons destroying a fire place, tearing down signs and doing other damage to his property at TURK DAM.

\* \* \*

**BUILDING & LOAN** — To enable the officers to take care of the rapidly growing business, the stockholders of the Doylestown Building and Loan Association voted to increase the capital stock from \$2,500,000 to \$5,000,000. George Miller was

(continued on page 28)

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# EPISODES IN CAIRO -VI



*by Dr. Arthur E. Bye*

Wishing to leave the distractions of modern Cairo and to lose myself in the desert where, undisturbed, I could contemplate the ancient past, I went out one afternoon to the pyramids at Gizeh and found a seat on a block of stone. It was not far from the desert road which disappears among the ruins of the pyramids, nor from the line which marks the sudden separation of desert from lush greenery. While I was secluded, I was not lost; in sight were some Arabs squatting in their white gallabias in the shadow of an excavation; only their dark faces showed, their black eyes staring. There were always those squatting Arabs, in the ruins or in the mosques, inscrutable, immobile, as if part of their background.

As it was hot I took off my coat and placed it on the stone beside me. When I had been there but a short time, a man, dressed in city clothes, approached me. Abruptly he accosted me by asking "Do you object I sit down and talk to you?"

I did object but I said, "No, but what do you want?"

"Do you believe in Destiny?" he then asked.

I thought for a moment, and then remarked "What I believe is unimportant; only what I know is important."

"I see you are a philo-sopher" he replied, accenting the first and third syllables. His English was good, but he rolled his r's like double l's, as, the people of all these Mediterranean countries do, and he sometimes

failed for the right word, often omitting one. He was not the Arab type; he might have been an Egyptian of the ancient race, like the Copts, but more probably, because of his mass of curly black hair, a Greek.

"But you not answer my question."

So I explained "What one believes is based upon conjecture, what one knows is based upon fact. So you conjecture about your destiny, but you do not know it."

"You know your Destiny?" he then asked.

"No, and no more than you", I answered.

"You are wrong", he denied, "I know my Destiny. Destiny has made me what I am—a bad man."

"Why do you say that?" I argued, "Don't you have any choice? You could be a good man if you wished to; anyone can."

The stranger waited for sometime, and then asked me, "You wish to know what I am?"

I was also slow to reply, but finally said, "I am not sure that I want to know, but if you wish to confess the desert is a good place to confess in—however, I am not a priest."

"You very interesting man. I like talk to you. Perhaps you will believe in Destiny if I tell you I a gigolo?"

"A gigolo?"

"You know what is a gigolo?"

"A gigolo", I suggested, "is a man who rents himself out to a woman as an escort."



He laughed, "A gigolo is a man who no work, but lives off other people."

"Do you like that life?" I asked him.

"No, I hate it", he shouted, "I hate myself." He hammered his big strong hands upon his knees. "I cannot tell you how I hate it."

I was too astonished to reply to that at once, but at last said, "But it's a good thing you hate it, because then you will wish to stop and lead the kind of life you prefer."

"You know I was born in the streets?"

"You mean," I supposed, "Your parents were very poor and did not have a home?"

"No," he interrupted, "They not care for me, I was one in one hundred. It was just an institution."

"Where was that?" I queried of him, "in Cairo?"

"In Alexandria," he informed me. "It was a Greek place, I perhaps Greek, I not know. They called me 'Michael.'"

"But look at yourself", I beseeched him, "You are a strong handsome man. Whoever your parents were, they gave you a perfect, a healthy body. Whatever the home was like, they gave you shelter and an education, for you are an educated man."

"Educated yes!" he admitted, "but not there. I ran away. It was my destiny to join a circus where I learned many things. Yes," he continued, "Oh yes, I am strong." He pulled his coat down off his shoulders and opened his shirt to show me his hairy chest, and he looked at me fiercely, "You not afraid of me? I told you I am bad man."

I was worried, and looked over toward the road. A few tourists on camels with their camel drivers were travelling towards the pyramids; they were mere specks in the distance.

As coolly as possible, I said, "Ought I to be afraid? What are you going to do to me? What is your purpose talking to me like this? You must have a reason? I don't think you would kill me without a reason. You are not that bad."

"No", he assured me, "Destiny has not made me a criminal, but I am bad." (He seemed to like to repeat it) "Look in my face. Look hard and tell me what you find there."

He brought his face close to mine. "Tell me what you find."

I stared at it.

"Your eyes are not straight in your face", I told him, "but no one's two eyes are alike." And as I looked at him I realized his was an evil face. His heavy eyebrows met over his nose, his eyes shifted from one side to the other; they were half closed; the pupils were hidden under his dark eyelashes.

"Look at me, Michael", I commanded, "Look at me with both your eyes."

He could not do so. His mouth twitched; his expression grew more devilish. I felt a shudder come over me, a sort of dizziness, and I seemed compelled to continue staring at his face. Is he hypnotizing me? I thought. But no, a hypnotist penetrates you with his eyes. It took all my will power to prevent my losing consciousness. I felt I had to fight the magnetic force that emanated from him.

Presently his face relaxed; he smiled; his eyes opened, and he asked, "What you find?"

I also relaxed. I thought I had won the fight.

"You find my Destiny written in my face?" he insisted.

"I find", I replied, "that you use Destiny as an excuse for your evil life. You say you hate that life. If so, you can change it tomorrow, today. You are perhaps twenty-two or twenty-four. I could be your grandfather. You can start life over again any time. If you believe in Destiny, you can say to yourself, if you wish, Destiny sent you here in the desert for me to tell you this."

"You are a wise man", Michael said, "Every word ... sinks deep in my brain. But also a foolish man."

He said this with a sort of solemnity, so that I would be at a loss what to think.

"I do not pretend to be wise, and I know I am often foolish. I suppose it was foolish for me to come out here and talk to you?"

"Yes, very foolish, alone, with all that money on you."

That money on me!

I put out my hand to pick up my coat, which had all this time been lying between us on the block of stone, but he stopped me. Placing his hand on my shoulders, he said, "Now I must go. I have disturbed you too long." He turned, adding, "Remember—Destiny" and hastily left.

About 100 feet away he turned again, waved, and called "Destiny!" then started to run.

Suddenly I understood. I picked up my coat. My bill fold fell on the sand. Automatically I looked in it and found it empty.

All I had to return with were a few coins in my coin purse—probably not enough for the bus fare.

Strangely I was neither shocked nor distressed, only bewildered. The only possible chance the fellow had to rifle the inside pocket of my coat, and take the money out of the billfold was when I was gazing steadily in his face. But it was an incredible feat of sleight of hand.



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# Bucks County

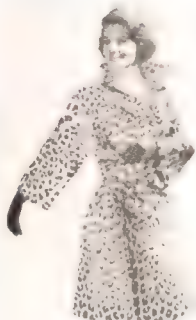


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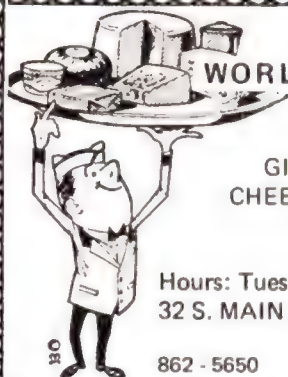
## BOOKS IN REVIEW

SPENCER TRACY, by  
Larry Swindell. The World  
Publishing Co., New York.  
319 pp. \$6.95.

There was a time when "Movies are better than ever." Nowadays there are no movies. Film is a medium; the days of the big stars and the big studios are over. From today's vantage point, movies of the early Spencer Tracy variety were technologically and artistically inferior. But for sheer entertainment, they have not yet been replaced. Further, if the slogan "The medium is the message" were ever true it was in the halcyon era of the big movies and the big stars for their influence on our times and culture was much greater than is generally realized.

Hence the book is valuable not only for those who are interested in the biography of one of those great stars but because it gives an insight into the ways in which this cultural influence developed and enlarged. We will not fault our fellow author and neighbor in Bucks County, Mr. Swindell, for having a style which is more suited to news print than hard cover, but we do think more careful proof reading by his publisher would have caught the errors in grammar and spelling.

The photographs are especially well chosen. We enjoyed reviving old memories and have been inspired to peruse more closely the schedules of the late late movies to engage in more of the same.



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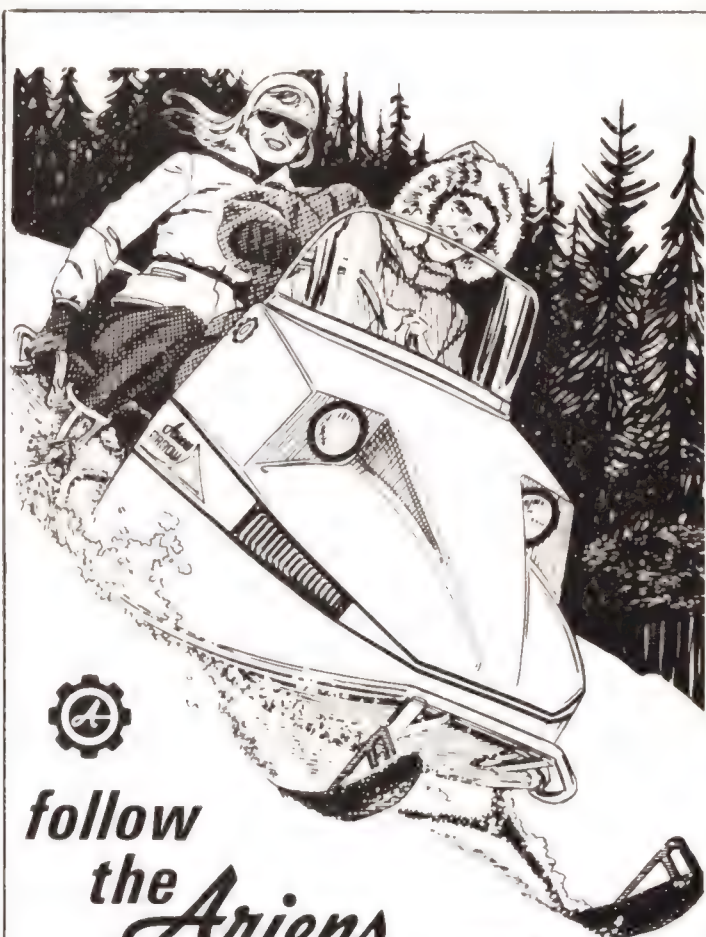
862 - 5650

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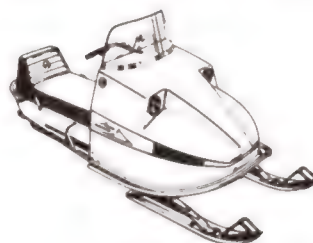


*(CALENDAR OF EVENTS cont. from page 3)*

- 1 - 31 DOYLESTOWN — Piper Hill Ski Area. Route 611. Weekdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Night Skiing 6 to 10 p.m. Refreshments.
- 1 - 31 CHURCHVILLE — Nature Education Center, Churchville County Park. Open daily 9 to 5 p.m., Sunday 2 to 5 p.m. Family Nature Programs Sunday 2 p.m.
- 1 - 31 TELFORD — Lockwood Galleries, 345 Church Road, Winter Show. Paintings, sculpture, pottery and weaving exhibits. Hours: Evenings 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- 1 - 3 DOYLESTOWN — Yardley Art Association presents an art show in the Jury Lounge of the Courthouse. Open to the public Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday 8:30 to Noon.
- 1 MORRISVILLE — Bucks County Ballet Co. presents "Snow White" at 2:00 P.M. at the Morrisville High School
- 2 LANGHORNE — Bucks County Ballet Co. presents "Snow White" at 2:00 P.M. at the Neshaminy High School.
- 3 NEWTOWN — Bucks County Ballet Co. presents "Snow White" at 2:00 P.M. at the Council Rock High School.
- 4 WRIGHTSTOWN — Bucks County Folksong Society, an evening of Folk Music at the Wrightstown Friends Meeting House Recreation Room, Route 413. 7 p.m. Free (If you play an instrument, bring it along.)
- 8 - 31 NEW HOPE — Golden Door Gallery presents an Art Show, featuring Bucks County Artists, Ranulph Bye, John Folinsbee, Russell Jones, Harry Leith-Ross. Open daily 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Sunday 1 to 5 p.m. No evenings.
- 10 WARMINSTER — Warminster Symphony Orchestra presents a regular concert with soloist, Ronald Jeremicz, Pianist, 8:30 p.m., at the Log College Junior High School, Norristown Road North of Street Road, Warminster. Tickets: \$1.00 for adults and 50 cents for students. Call OS 2 - 0837 or purchase them at the door.
- 13 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Wildflower Propagation. Series A. Session 1, Seeds, Wildflower Preserve Headquarters, Bowman's Hill, 10 to 12 noon.
- 15,16,17 YARDLEY — 18th Annual "Antique Show", Yardley Community Center, 64 S. Main St., 11:15 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. (Sat. closes at 6 p.m.) Snack Bar, 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. Dinners by Reservation only.
- 27 WASHINGTON CROSSING — Winter Identification of Trees and Shrubs, Session 1, Wildflower Preserve Headquarters, Bowman's Hill. 10 to 12 noon.



  
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## HOW MUCH IS A GOOD WIFE WORTH?

If you want to shake up the quietest gathering — and stir up a pepper-pot of conflict — just ask how much the modern wife is worth in dollars and cents. Bounce it off the gentleman who thinks a house full of electrical appliances gives a woman nothing to do all day. And toss the ball to his wife for awhile, together with a fistful of very real facts and figures like — the average

working wage per hour for every one of the more than twenty services she performs free in a week's work.

A housewife wouldn't be human if she didn't wonder now and then just what her many duties could command on the open job market. And how *her* pay-check would stack up against that beautifully manicured, perfectly coiffed paragon of all



virtues — the secretary her husband finds indispensable.

A wrap-up of what any home-maker really does in a month of run-days sounds like a mission impossible. But just break it down into your own "Help Wanted" column.

**INDOOR MENIAL TASKS?** Chambermaid for beds and towels every toss and tumble A.M.: (\$1.50



an hour). . .waitress (bringing on the breakfast, lunch and dinner plates and whisking them off (\$2.00). . .and on up to the specialized services. Cook (\$3.00). . .baker (\$2.25). . .and the special puff-pastry roses saying "Happy Birthday" — up to \$5.00, by the hour.

**AROUND THE HOUSE, INDOORS AND OUT?** A handyman, chauffeur and gardener each draw \$2.25 an hour. Think about that, next time you're sweeping out the garage. Picking up the puppy at the vet's. Or running super-market delivery service. (To say nothing of purchasing agent expertise: keeping a weather eye on all the best buys. \$5.00 an hour, at the present corporate rates.)

And digging up the turf around the roses that will look lovely at your next dinner party. (Florist? Ten dollars a vase!)

**GROOMING, SPRUCE-UPS AND INTERIOR DECORATION?** As laundress (\$1.50 an hour). . .dressmaker (\$2.25). . .home economist (\$3.00). . .you're busy so many hours a week, keeping the household handbox spandy. If you whip up the cafe curtains or paint the bedroom yourself — that's another four to five dollars an hour for the comparable professional fee.

**GALA GOING-ON?** Professional party-planners get up to hundreds of dollars for toddler carnivals, complete with clowns. But when you do the sing-a-longs with ribbon-wraps and parfaits in six colors joined by the whipped cream cake — it's

mother who pays.

**PERSONAL SHOPPER?** Those lovely ladies who tour the store with customers — recommending and suggesting — get two dollars an hour. But you're the one who figures out how soon little hems will have to be let down for shooting-up sprouts. And how fast little toes grow inside new shoes.

**FUTURE FORECASTER?** Yes, a good housewife even has to be a bit of a mystic. That's the look-ahead, planning side of the home-maker that's her nest builder prerogative. Who knows what the future holds or what expenses will have to be reckoned with? The big ones — cars, houses, medical and optical, education or the many, many little ones



often appear when you're least prepared for them. They're in the crystal ball for every living, growing group of people on earth.

So — even though it's fun to make party conversation out of your unpaid salary — up to two hundred dollars a week and more! — there's a much sounder role you can play behind the scenes. And that's putting the dollars you save the household in your services to use for future demands the years will bring. All this needs the best available financial planning. And as the Lady Diplomat and Speaker of the House it's up to you to start the ball rolling in top-level talks.

Present day spending is here and now. Every year brings its own expensive tomorrows. So, perk up the coffee. and let the men take over — even if you have to talk them into thinking that they thought about it all by themselves.

How much is a good wife worth? Her value is so great — it's inestimable.



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(RAMBLING WITH RUSS cont. from page 21)

re-elected president and a minute was inscribed on the books to the effect that each director of the association would receive \$2.50 for attending board meetings.

\* \* \*

**DEAD MAN TALKS** — While State Police were dragging the Delaware River at Washington's Crossing for his body, Albert LeRoy Jemison, 28, of 695 Rutherford Ave., Trenton, phoned his sister in Trenton and said: "Hello Kid, How Are You?" and then returned shortly afterward to his Trenton home. A veil of mystery surrounded the entire affair because Jemison's auto was found partly hanging from a large hole in the crossing bridge with some of Jemison's clothing found in his automobile.

\* \* \*

**UNION HORSE COMPANY** — Thomas Ross, Doylestown attorney, was re-elected president of the Union Horse Company at the 86th annual meeting at the Warrington Inn, advertised as "One Of The Leading Hotels on the Gateway to the Poconos." Mine Host E. Sissoldo treated the members to a great meal. Three new members were elected — Harry S. Hobensack, Doylestown; E. Sissoldo, Warrington and Abraham S. Kriebel, steward of the Bucks County Home.

\* \* \*

**EASTON FIRE** — Easton had a \$100,000 fire, starting in the Mintz Clothing Store less than a block from the CIRCLE. Seip's Restaurant and other places including a cigar store owned by Edward Shultz, a former Doylestown resident, were damaged by the fire.

\* \* \*

**SEVEN-DAY TRIAL** — Bucks County jury deliberated 2 hours and convicted Henry M. McAdoo and George H. Allen, owners of the McAdoo & Allen Company of Quakertown, leather shoe welt manufacturers. At the end of the seven-day trial in Bucks County criminal court, the company was found guilty of maintaining a nuisance in so far as the effluent from the plant ran into Beaver Creek. Attorney Webster S. Achey applied for a new trial. In charge of the prosecution were Harry E. Grim, Perkasio; District Atty. Hiram H. Keller, C. William Freed, Quakertown and Gordon H. Luckenbill, Quakertown. Counsel for the defendants were Achey, ex-Judge Harmon Yerkes, Howard I. James, of Bristol and Charles Ortt of Quakertown. (What an array of legal talent!)

\* \* \*

**WELL BABY CLINIC** — The New Hope Well Baby



Clinic celebrated its second birthday for their little friends. Prizes were awarded to Master Robert McNamara, Jr., for best attendance; Miss Jean Curley for 70 percent attendance; Miss Emily Beaumont and Master Chester Hambleton, Jr.

\* \* \*

**BANK PRESIDENT** — The 109th birthday of the Farmers National Bank of Bristol marked the re-election of Joseph R. Grundy as president of that institution.

\* \* \*

**SPORTS** — According to ART DOPE, veteran sports scribe and perennial vice president of the Philadelphia Sports Writers Association for years, Doylestown High's basketball team coached by Allen Gardy (1923), defeated Coath Dobbie Weaver's Lansdale High quintet, 14 to 7 on the small Lansdale court. That year Doylestown ended the season in a tie with Perkasio. D-Town players were Nash, Bigley, Hodgins, Atlee and Dan Tomlinson. Also this year Hatboro defeated Doylestown, 24 - 21 with players Traub, Mason, McKenzie, Ramsey and Weick. The season ended with a win for Perkasio over Doylestown, 40 to 39 in an extra period before a crowd of 700 fans on the Doylestown Armory floor. In that game Captain Lloyd Hoagey of Perkasio converted 14 out of 19 foul shots to help his team win the crown.

\* \* \*

**THE OLDE DAZE** — Housekeeping expenses for Doylestown Boro in 1922 amounted to \$46,357.06, a decrease of \$10,370.05 over the previous year, according to the statement of Boro Treasurer Horace M. Mann. The police department that year cost taxpayers but \$3,898.33. (They take that much money now in parking meters in less than three months.)

\* \* \*

**REMEMBER THIS?** — Four-hundred persons helped Company D, 111th Infantry, National Guard (Doylestown) get richer at a Booster Night at the Doylestown Armory. There was basketball, boxing, wrestling and an escape act by Paul (Um Paul) Kruger, proprietor of the Railroad House, Doylestown, who got out of a straight jacket three times within 10 minutes. The boxing bouts were officiated by Joe Steelman with Judges George Lehman and Francis Donnelly. ART DOPE recorded the summaries as follows: "Chief Nick Bradley won from Russ Gulick, by decision; Bob Gardner won from Bill Harris, by TKO; Boots Hamilton won from Mose Manley; Vic Sharrett and Dave Rosser, draw."

\* \* \*



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*(TROLLEYS cont. from page 5)*

and shovels.

The police arrived, and after much insulting back and forth, order was restored finally with several members of both sides going off to jail.

This began the first of a great many lengthy meetings between the two warring bodies. At last the Newtown company won out and the track was laid, with trolleys running the whole distance in peace and harmony.

On the first official run after the battle, a large crowd of the elated townspeople climbed aboard determined to celebrate victory along the way. Those in attendance included: Capt. Thomas C. Chambers, President of the Newtown Electric Street Railway; George C. Worstall, William S. Wright, Alexander C. Blackfan and Thaddeus S. Kenderdine, all on the board of directors of the company.

In those early days, the only trolley connection to Doylestown, the county seat, was the one up from Willow Grove. So, seeing a great need for a line across the county from the Newtown direction, Capt. Chambers and his fellow board members sought and obtained permission to run a new track.

This line ran along the Newtown-Wrightstown Pike and Swampy Road, passing through Wrightstown, Wycombe, and what is now Furlong, entering Doylestown up over Pebble Hill Road.

It was about 1902 when all the trolley companies merged into the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Traction Company, and that was their name until their eventual abandonment in the 1940's.

It is interesting to note that around 1900 the trolleys were the most popular thing to ever come down the pike. The companies owning them went out of their way to compete with each other for the public's trade. Large helpings of really good entertainment were provided for the travelers to enjoy at the end of the ride, not to miss mentioning the wonderful sing-alongs that took place en route.

Richlandtown pavillion was one of the spots which drew the thousands, running second only to Willow Grove. Here, families could take baskets of picnic food and spend the day listening to the music, or dance until the last trolley ran at midnight. It was a good life, eating on and off all day, swinging with the kids, or just sitting and holding hands with the wife, remembering when.

The turn of the century brought a new law which added to the general attraction of the trolley. The cars were permitted to carry freight on all inter-urban lines, and this at a good profit, and so it appeared that it was smooth sailing from here on in for the

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clanky old cars.

Then came a young man with wild ideas. Henry Ford and his amazing revolution with the auto, making it possible for nearly everyone to have at least one car in the family. So the Roaring Twenties made sad inroads on the trolleys, and pretty soon they just ceased to be used.

"And with his had holding mine, we sat to the end of the line."

"Telford, Perkasio . . . Quakertown last stop. Watch your step ladies!"

(COUNTRY STORE cont. from page 19)

he gets.

He admits he could do much better if he had more space. "I have cracker boxes, barrels and a checkerboard that I'd like to set up. Maybe someday I'll open a store somewhere and at the same time display my collection in it," Wirebach says.

One of his favorite pieces is an old-fashioned coffee-grinder which probably dates from the early 1900's. It was made in Philadelphia and the patent on this invention was taken out in 1873. He got this from a man in Kintnersville, Bucks County.

Another interesting item is a stereoptican viewer with which one can look at scenes of yesteryear. It's kind of an early version of the 3-D technique. Wirebach has several hundred scenes to go with it. Two of his rare items are a Planter's Peanuts can and jar. He also has many unusually-designed bottles, some of which contain herbs and cures which were put to use by physicians of the past. Many hand made soaps, goods, trinkets and products common to your great, great grandparents can be seen in the collection.

John Wirebach, who works as a service correspondent for U. S. Steel, is also very much interested in genealogy. He is, in fact, Vice President of the Wirebach Association. Once a year all branches of this family get together for an annual party held in a park in Pleasant Valley.

The value of preserving history is something which John Wirebach understands through personal experience. He is doing his share by constantly adding new features and collector's items to his little museum. There are hundreds of reminders of yesteryear already crammed into the small room which houses his collection. It's true, Levittown is still a young community in comparison to its many historic neighbors, but in John Wirebach's Old Country Store and Post Office, history is apparent in every corner.



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